

MEDIA RELEASE

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CONSULTATION ON BROWN HILL KESWICK CREEK STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN CONFIRMS COMMUNITY OPPOSITION TO DAM

The City of Mitcham has received the Community Consultation Report on the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Draft Stormwater Management Plan which overwhelmingly demonstrates that the Mitcham community, supports flood mitigation, but strongly opposes the construction of a Dam in Brown Hill Creek.

The report, compiled by planning consultations URPS, highlights responses received from major stakeholders, including local residents, community groups and government agencies.

Key findings outlined in the report include:

- 74% of feedback respondents considered an enhanced flood mitigation plan as “important/very important”.
- The Draft Plan received strong support from 71% of feedback respondents who completed feedback forms, with only 13% opposed.
- Excluding the dam, there was strong support for proposed channel and culvert upgrades, diversions and improvements to planning, community awareness and creek maintenance, with 70% of respondents indicating their support for these initiatives.
- By far the most contentious issues was the question of whether to build a dam – or not build a dam - in the Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park which drew more than 6,200 responses on this issue alone, including 4010 signatures on a “no dam” petition.
- In total, more than 4,700 respondents (76%) were opposed to the dam whilst 21% (1326) supported a dam.

Mayor Michael Picton said “While the report confirms strong community support to reduce the risk of flooding in the Brown Hill and Keswick Creek catchments, our community has clearly spoken of their concerns about the proposed construction of a dam in Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park.

“The community is keen to move forward with the majority of the proposed project but has major concerns about the proposed construction of a dam, in particular the environmental impact that a dam will have on Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park”

“Council will now consider in detail the consultation report and the strong community opposition to the construction of the dam in the Brown Hill Recreation Park while waiting for the results of WorleyParsons supplementary report into potential variations to the Draft Plan before making a final decision on the draft Plan” said Mayor Picton.

More information about the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project, including a link to the community consultation report in full, is available on the Adelaide, Burnside, Mitcham, Unley and West Torrens Council websites.

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